

# **Minority Health Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, June, 2006**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Ana Novais (HEALTH), Dannie Ritchie (Brown), Yvette Mendez (RI Central AHEC), Carrie Bridges (HEALTH), Helena Friedmann (Childhood Lead Action Project), Trevor Tejada-Berges (W&I), Stacie Bowman (HEALTH), Aleatha Dickerson (DHS), and Loida Bonney (Miriam Hospital), Julie Rawlings (Women's Center), Vinnie Velasquez (MAP), Sam Viner-Brown (HEALTH), Cha la Lee (SEDC), Elaina Goldstein (Rhodes to Independence), and Keally DeWitt (Rhodes to Independence)

**Not in Attendance:** Elizabeth Castellano (HEALTH), Betty Bernal (ACS), Marco Maina (YMCA), Miguel Sanchez-Hartwein (CHisPA), Donna Huntley-Newby (RIC), Janet Anderson (DCYF), Robert Trachtenberg (RI AHEC), Norma V. Hardy (Brown), Maria Barros (Homecare and Hospice), David Gifford (HEALTH), Delia Rodriguez (DEA), Arlene Ayala (Progreso Latino), Janet Scott-Harris (US DHHS/OPHS/OMH), Bill Waters (HEALTH), and Judith Koegler (RI Free Clinic)

### **I. Call to Order**

**Yvette Mendez called the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted. Note- The meeting was scheduled to be held at the Chinese Nurses Association of America but was moved to RI Cancer**

**Council (RICAN) because the Chinese Nurses church building was locked and no one was there to host. RICAN graciously provided meeting space and refreshments.**

## **II. Review of the Minutes**

**Minutes were approved with the correction of Dannie Ritchie being moved to the category of “Not in Attendance” at the March 9, 2006 meeting.**

## **III. Old Business/ Minority Health Advisory Committee Updates**

**Dr. Loida Bonney introduced herself as a new member of the MHAC. Dr. Bonney described her background, her interest in data, and suggested that the Data Committee update information on the Office of Minority Health website.**

**Vinnie Velasquez and Julie Rawlings introduced themselves to the MHAC as proposed members.**

**Carrie Bridges delivered the OMH update. (1) Carrie extended the invitation for members of the MHAC to meet with Bill waters, Deputy Director of the Department of Health and Jay Buechner, Lead of the Center for Health Data and Analysis to review the surveillance systems and data analysis processes employed by the Department of Health. (2) Carrie provided an update on disparities projects at HEALTH. (3) Carrie announced that a rising senior at Brown University, Thalia Julme, would be interning with the Office of**

Minority Health over the summer. One of Thalia's projects would be to compile CLAS-related resources and document CLAS-related legislation from other states. (4) Carrie announced the World Refugee Day celebration that would be held on June 6 at the RI State House and invited MHAC members to attend. (5) Carrie announced the community forums at senior centers that Senator Juan Pichardo conducted in May 2006 and in which the Office of Minority Health participated. At the request of Senator Pichardo, Ana Novais attended 2 forums and Carrie Bridges attended one to describe minority health initiatives of HEALTH and answer any questions from the participants.

Aleatha Dickerson delivered a State Partners Update representing the Department of Human Services. Aleatha explained that she, Murray Brown, and Mary Lima met to discuss the CLAS Standards. DHS uses interpreters and will not allow a family member under the age of 18 to interpret. Currently, DHS is conducting a needs assessment for the translation of printed materials. Mary Lima from DHS will be happy to meet with HEALTH to discuss what they are doing.

No sub-committee reports were delivered as sub-committees have not yet met. OMH will distribute the sub-committee descriptions and membership lists.

#### **IV. New business/Public Comment**

**Sam Viner-Brown, an epidemiologist in the Division of Family Health at HEALTH, presented the RI DOH 2006 Family Health Plan and asked for feedback (plan was sent to MHAC members in advance of the meeting; extra copies were distributed at the meeting). Sam described the six priority areas of the plan (see plan) and asked for ideas for collaboration and partnership. MHAC members suggested additional indicators for study and additional data collection strategies. Members also suggested improved data sharing and analysis within the Health Department and between other state agencies. A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for June 26 at 1:00 pm at the Dept. of Labor and Training.**

**Elaina Goldstein presented on the Sherlock Plan (the Medicaid Buy-in Program) (see handouts). The Sherlock Plan is the new managed care program for adults with disabilities. Eligible participants pay a Medicaid premium to allow people with disabilities to earn more income without the risk of losing health coverage, thereby encouraging people to come off Social Security. The Sherlock plan is looking for consumers to be on its steering committee and bring attention to racial and ethnic health disparities. The steering committee will meet next in September 2006. Keally DeWitt (462-6022) is the contact for this program.**

**V. Minority Health Promotion Center Report – Chinese Nurses Association of America, Inc.**

**No one from CNAA attended the meeting so no MHPC presentation**

**was given.**

## **VI. Open Discussion**

### **Next Meeting**

**The next meeting for the MHAC is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2006, at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries in Providence.**